

Application No. 09/867,227
Reply to Office Action of JANUARY 24, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-19, 21-24, and 34-35 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the remarks below.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Dicus for her helpful explanations of the rejection within the outstanding Office Action.

The rejection of Claims 15-19, 21-24, and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), over USPN 5,605,750 (US'750) is traversed below.

The present invention relates, in part, to products having a cross-linking agent, at most 90 parts of colloidal inorganic particles(or submicron inorganic particles); and at least 10 parts of a polymeric binder, where the weight percentage of colloidal inorganic particles (or submicron inorganic particles) is greater than the weight percent of polymeric binder (see Claims 15, 34 and 35). Claims 15 and 34 relate to an ink receiving medium. Claim 35 relates to a microporous coating. Claim 34 further relates to situations where the colloidal inorganic particles are replaced with submicron inorganic particles.

At best, US'750, discloses a media having a coating on one side of a film. US'750 fails altogether to disclose the claimed invention because US'750 fails altogether to disclose or suggest a coating and/or ink receiving medium containing a cross-linking agent. Accordingly, US'750 fails to disclose all claim limitations of the claimed invention, much less create a prima facie case of obviousness as explained below.

US'750 fails to disclose or suggest a coating and/or ink receiving medium containing a cross-linking agent. Citing column 8, line 55, of US'750, the Office incorrectly indicates that the disclosure of US'750 discloses an ink receiving medium containing a crosslinking agent. At best, US'750 discloses a "crosslinked polymethyl methacrylate". This is not a crosslinking agent, but instead a product that is crosslinked. A crosslinking agent functions to catalyze the formation of covalent bonds between one or more functional groups that are

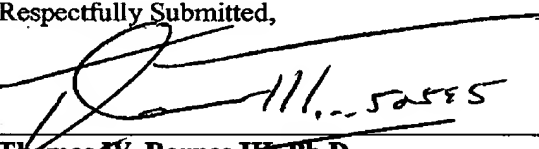
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capable of being crosslinked. A crosslinking agent is not a chemical entity that is crosslinked in its present state. In fact, "crosslinked polymethyl methacrylate" can not crosslink anything. Thus, the "crosslinked polymethyl methacrylate" does not have a crosslinking function and is not a crosslinking agent. As US'750 discloses in the paragraph cited by the Office, the "crosslinked polymethyl methacrylate" functions as a pigment and controls smudge resistance. This fact alone demonstrates that US'750 fails to disclose and/or suggest the claimed invention because the crosslinking agent element is present in all pending claims and US'750 fails to disclose and/or suggest this element within all pending claims. Accordingly, US'750 fails to disclose and/or suggest all elements of the claimed invention as required by §35 USC 102 and/or 35 USC §103.

In light of the above, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully submitted.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Should anything further be required to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact below-signed by telephone.

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